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09/695,402	10/25/2000	Howard W. Fingerhut	BS00-189	2671

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EXAMINER

DOAN, DUYEN MY

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2143

DATE MAILED: 02/09/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/695,402	FINGERHUT ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Duyen M. Doan	2143	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 August 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-87 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-87 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 October 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-87 are presented for examination.

Priority

No priority claims have been made.

The effective filing date for the subject matter defined in the pending claims in this application is 10/25/2000.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-87 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ennis, Jr. et al. (Patent Number 5,867,483), hereinafter referred to as Ennis, in view of Tams et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,327,620), hereinafter referred to as Tams, in view of Schaffer (U.S. Patent Number 6,219,050), and further in view of Hernandez et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,208,977), hereinafter referred to as Hernandez.

Regarding claim 1, Ennis disclosed a method of monitoring a packet-switched network using traffic logs (Abstract, Figures 1 and 11), comprising:

Art Unit: 2143

creating a histogram file (Figures 13-16, column 4 lines 45-64, column 5 lines 13-22);

generating a traffic log at a first location within the network, the traffic log containing a plurality of values detected from data transmission (column 2 lines 16-30, column 7 lines 22-28, column 8 lines 11-16);

transferring the traffic log from the first location [short term database] to a second location [long term database] (Figure 10, column 14 lines 8-33);

storing the traffic log generated by the network at the second location [long term database] (Figure 10, column 2 lines 16-30);

analyzing the stored traffic log to determine the time of creation of the traffic log and the network entry and exit points of the packet (Figures 11, 13-16, column 3 lines 58-67, column 4 lines 45-64),

Ennis taught the invention substantially as claimed. However, Ennis did not specifically teach updating the histogram file using at least the time of creation of the traffic log and at least one of the entry and exit points of the packet.

Ennis suggested exploration of art and/or provided a reason to modify the method with the updating feature (column 3 lines 58-64, column 4 lines 45-54).

Tams disclosed a method of monitoring a packet-switched network using traffic logs comprising the step of updating the histogram file using at least the time of creation of the traffic log and at least one of the entry and exit points of the packet (Figures 8 and 10, column 35-65).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the method of Ennis with the teachings of Tams to include the updating feature in order to appropriately capture data transmission system activity (Ennis, column 9 lines 11-15) since network traffic monitoring generally being done over the specified time interval (Tams, column 3 lines 44-45).

The combination of Ennis and Tams taught the invention substantially as claimed, however, the combination of Ennis and Tams did not teach the step of generating a traffic log at a first location within the network based upon detection of a packet, the traffic log containing a plurality of values detected from the packet including a network entry point and a network exit point of the packet.

Tams suggested exploration of art and/or provided a reason to modify the method of Tams with generating a traffic log where each traffic log contains values

Art Unit: 2143

such as *network entry point and a network exit point of the packet for an individual packet* (column 5 lines 1-9, column 13 lines 35-42, Table 2).

Schaffer taught a method of generating a traffic log at a first location within the network based upon detection of a packet, the traffic log containing a plurality of values detected from the packet including a network entry point and a network exit point of the packet (Schaffer, Abstract, column 1 lines 17-35, column 2 lines 24-31, column 6 lines 5-27).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the combined method of Ennis and Tams with the teachings of Schaffer to include a step of generating a traffic log where each traffic log contains values such as network entry point and a network exit point of the packet for *an individual packet* since for cases where an application's network behavior must be understood, the ability of capture and display data associated with an individual packet is desired because in multi-tier applications, it is often difficult to understand the source and destination of a packet (Schaffer, column 1 lines 54-64, column 2 lines 10-17).

Ennis suggested exploration of art and/or provided a reason to modify the combined method Ennis, Tams, and Schaffer with the step of generating billing data from the stored traffic logs (column 2 lines 64-column 3 lines 8, column 5 lines 23-40, column 24 lines 51-59).

Art Unit: 2143

Hernandez disclosed a method for determining billing information for use of a network comprising generating billing data for network use at the second location using information from the stored traffic logs (Title, Abstract, Figures 1 B, 4A, column lines 1-18, column 3 lines 31-67, column 4 line 65-column 5 line 7).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the combined method of Ennis, Tams, and Schaffer with the teachings of Hernandez to include a step of generating billing data for network use at the second location using information from the stored traffic logs in order to make users accountable for their usage level thereby encouraging more efficient use of network resources (Hernandez, column 2 lines 66-column 3 lines 4).

As the rejection reads, the combination of Ennis, Tams, Schaffer, and Hernandez taught all the limitations as claimed in claim 1.

Regarding claim 2, Tams disclosed a method wherein the histogram file is a flat file, whereby direct and rapid access to stored data is effected (column 2 lines 16-30).

Regarding claim 3, Ennis disclosed a method wherein two histogram files are created, a first histogram being representative of traffic being passed into the network and a second histogram being representative of the traffic being passed from the network (column 4 lines 45-59, column 7 lines 23-52).

Regarding claim 4, Ennis disclosed a method wherein the histogram file is representative of traffic passing to a host connected to the entry or exit point (Figure 1, column 7 lines 18-40).

Regarding claim 5, Ennis disclosed a method further comprising repeating steps (b) (d) for at least a predetermined period (column 4 lines 45-64, column 15 lines 31-45).

Regarding claim 6, Tams and Schaffer disclosed a method further comprising analyzing the traffic log to determine state information of a packet associated with the traffic log, and updating the histogram with the state information (Tams, column 7 lines 22-41; Schaffer, Abstract, column 3 lines 23-29).

Regarding claim 7, Ennis and Tams combined disclose a method wherein the histogram plots packets per minute versus time (Ennis, Figures 11 and 13-16; Tams, column 3 lines 44-52).

Regarding claim 8, Ennis disclosed a method further comprising broadcasting from a server computer data representative of the histogram to a client computer (column 15 lines 31-45). Tams also disclosed this limitation (column 6 lines 39-45).

Regarding claim 9, Ennis disclosed a method wherein the network is a packet network [Mobitex network] (Title, Abstract). (Note: Mobitex technology is a well-known packet data network).

Regarding claim 10, Ennis disclosed a method further comprising displaying a histogram based on data in the histogram file (Figures 11 and 13-16, column 6 lines 9-37, column 17 lines 6-24).

Regarding claim 11, Ennis and Tams disclosed a method further comprising creating at least one histogram for each host of the network (Ennis, Figures 11 and 13-16, column 17 lines 25-53; Tams, Tables 1-2).

Regarding claim 12, Ennis disclosed a method further comprising selecting for display the at least one histogram for a particular host (Figures 11 and 13-16, column 17 lines 24-53).

Regarding claim 13, Tams disclosed a method further comprising monitoring a central location of the network for new traffic logs (Figures 5-6 and 8, column 13 lines 19-42).

Regarding claim 14, Ennis, Tams, Schaffer, and Hernandez combined disclose a method of monitoring packet traffic through a node of a packet-switched network using traffic logs, comprising:

- (a) creating a histogram file for at least one node in the network (Ennis, Figures 13-16, column 4 lines 45-64, column 5 lines 13-22);
- (b) generating a traffic log at a first location within the network based upon detection of a packet, the traffic log containing a plurality of values detected from the packet including a network entry point and a network exit point of the packet

Art Unit: 2143

(Schaffer, Abstract, column 1 lines 17-35, column 2 lines 24-31, column 6 lines 5-27)

(c) transferring the traffic log from the first location [short term database] to a second location [long term database] (Ennis, Figure 10, column 14 lines 8-33);

(d) storing the traffic log generated by the network at the second location [long term databases] (Ennis, Figure 10, column 2 lines 16-30);

(e) analyzing the stored traffic log to determine the time of creation of the traffic log and the network entry and exit points of the packet (Ennis, Figures 11, 13-16, column 3 lines 58-67, column 4 lines 45-64).

(f) determining a network path between the entry and exit points of the packet (Ennis, Figures 11, 13-16, column 3 lines 58-67, column 4 lines 45-64, column 7 lines 43-52);

(g) determining whether the node falls along the network path (Ennis column 7 lines 43-52);

Art Unit: 2143

(h) updating the histogram file using at least the time of creation of the traffic log when the node falls along the network path (Tams, Figures 8 and 10, column 25 lines 50-65; Ennis column 7 lines 43-52, column 8 lines 11-15); and

(i) generating billing data for network use at the second location using information from the stored traffic logs (Hernandez, Title, Abstract, Figures 1B, 4A, column lines 1-18, column 3 lines 31-67, column 4 line 65-column 5 line 7).

Regarding claim 15, Tams disclosed a method wherein the histogram file is a flat file (column 2 lines 16-30).

Regarding claim 16, Ennis disclosed a method wherein two histogram files are created, a first histogram being representative of traffic being passed towards a higher level of the network and a second histogram being representative of the traffic being passed towards a lower level of the network or outside the network (column 4 lines 45-59, column 7 lines 23-52).

Regarding claim 17, Ennis disclosed a method further comprising repeating steps (b) - (f) for at least a 24-hour period (column 4 lines 45-64, column 15 lines 31-45).

Regarding claim 18, Ennis and Tams combined disclose a method wherein the histogram plots packets per minute versus time (Ennis, Figures 11 and 13-16; Tams, column 3 lines 44-52).

Regarding claim 19, Ennis disclosed further comprising broadcasting, from a

Art Unit: 2143

server computer, data representative of the histogram to a client computer (column 15 lines 31-45). Tams also disclosed this limitation (column 6 lines 39-45).

Regarding claim 20, Ennis disclosed wherein the network is a packet network [Mobitex network] (Title, Abstract). (Note: Mobitex technology is a well-known packet data network).

Regarding claim 21, Ennis disclosed further comprising displaying a histogram based on data in the histogram file (Figures 11 and 13-16, column 6 lines 9-37, column 17 lines 6-24).

Regarding claim 22, Ennis and Tams disclosed further comprising creating at least one histogram for each node of the network (Ennis, Figures 11 and 13-16, column 17 lines 25-53; Tams, Tables 1-4A).

Regarding claim 23, Ennis disclosed further comprising selecting for display the at least one histogram for a particular node (Figures 11 and 13-16, column 17 lines 24-53).

Regarding claim 24, Tams disclosed further comprising monitoring a central location of the network for new traffic logs (Figures 5-6 and 8, column 13 lines 19-42).

Regarding claim 25, Ennis, Tams, Schaffer, and Hernandez combined disclose a method of monitoring packet traffic through a link connecting two nodes of a packet-switched network using traffic logs, comprising:

- (a) creating a histogram file for at least one link in the network (Ennis, Figures 13-16, column 4 lines 45-64, column 5 lines 13-22); (b) generating a traffic

log at a first location within the network based upon detection of a packet, the traffic log containing a plurality of values detected from the packet including a network entry point and a network exit point of the packet and a number of bytes of the packet (Schaffer, Abstract, Figure 1, column 1 lines 17-35, column 2 lines 24-31, column 6 lines 5-27); (c) transferring the traffic log from the first location [short term database] to a second location [long term database] (Ennis, Figure 10, column 14 lines 8-33); (d) storing the traffic log generated by the network (Ennis, Figure 10, column 2 lines 16-30); (e) analyzing the traffic log to determine the time of creation of the traffic log and the network entry and exit points of the packet (Ennis, Figures 11, 13-16, column 3 lines 58-67, column 4 lines 45-64); (f) determining a network path between the entry and exit points (Ennis, Figures 11, 13-16, column 3 lines 58-67, column 4 lines 45-64, column 7 lines 43-52); (g) determining whether the link falls along the network path (Ennis column 7 lines 43-52); (h) determining a number of bytes carried by the packet associated with the traffic log (Shaffer, Figure 1, column 48-54);

(f) updating the histogram file using at least the time of creation of the traffic log when the node falls along the network path and the number of bytes when the link falls along the network path (Tams, Figures 8 and 10, column 25 lines 50-65; Ennis column 7 lines 43-52, column 8 lines 11-15); and

Art Unit: 2143

(g) generating billing data for network use at the second location using information from the stored traffic logs (Hernandez, Title, Abstract, Figures 1B, 4A, column lines 1-18, column 3 lines 31-67, column 4 line 65-column 5 line 7).

Regarding claims 26-35, the limitations are closely similar to the limitations of claims 15-24, and thus are rejected using the same rationale.

Regarding claim 36, Ennis, Tams, and Shaffer combined disclose a method of monitoring the operations of a packet-switched network, the network automatically generating a traffic log when a packet enters or exits the network by detecting values from the packet (Tams, column 13 lines 35-38; Schaffer, Abstract), the method comprising:

(a) detecting when a new traffic log is available at a network control center (Ennis, column 3 lines 41-67; Tams, Figures 5 and 8);

(b) downloading the new traffic log to a server computer that maintains a plurality of histogram files (Schaffer, Figure 8 sign 114, column 8 lines 43-60);

(c) updating at least one histogram file of the server computer using information available from the new traffic log by analyzing the new traffic log to determine one or more values detected from the packet that are stored by the new traffic log that are relevant to the at least one histogram (Ennis, Figures 8 and 10, column 35-65; Schaffer, column 8, lines 43-60);

(d) deleting the new traffic log (Tams, column 4 lines 29-43, column 25 lines 35-49);

(e) making the updated at least one histogram file available to a client computer from the server computer (Ennis, column 15 lines 31-45; Schaffer, column 8 lines 61-67); and

(f) generating billing data for network use at the second location using information from the stored traffic logs (Hernandez, Title, Abstract, Figures 1 B, 4A, column lines 1-18, column 3 lines 31-67, column 4 line 65-column 5 line 7).

Regarding claims 37-41, the limitations are closely similar to the limitations of claims 2-13 & 15-24, thus these claims are rejected using the same rationale.

Regarding claim 42, Tams disclosed a method wherein the updating step comprises incrementing a value in the histogram file (column 2 lines 42-59).

Regarding claim 43, Ennis, Tams, and Schaffer combined disclose a method of analyzing the performance of a packet-switched network, the network automatically generating a traffic log, each time a packet exits the network, each traffic log including at least the time the traffic log was created, the addresses of the packet sender and

Art Unit: 2143

packet recipient, and the entry and exit network nodes (Schaffer, Abstract, Figure 1, column 1 lines 13-35, Tams, Figure 5, column 4 lines 17-24) the method comprising the steps of:

(a) collecting at a centralized location a plurality of traffic logs from the network, with each traffic log containing information relevant to a different packet that has exited the network (Ennis, Abstract, column 3 lines 41-67, column 4 lines 45-67; Tams, Table 2);

(b) analyzing each of the plurality of traffic logs to determine information about each of the packets that have exited the network (Schaffer, column 1 lines 17-35, column 6 lines 5-26);

(c) automatically generating a plurality of histograms, each histogram being based on information gleaned from the plurality of traffic logs about the packets that have exited the network; and

(d) generating billing data for network use at the second location using information from the stored traffic logs (Hernandez, Title, Abstract, Figures 1 B, 4A, column lines 1-18, column 3 lines 31-67, column 4 line 65-column 5 line 7), wherein at least one histogram is representative of packet traffic passing

Art Unit: 2143

through a host connected to the network (Ennis, Figures 11 and 13-16, column 4 lines 45-67, column 14 lines 1-33).

Regarding claims 44-48, the limitations are closely similar to the limitations of claims 2-3, 8, 12, and 33.

Regarding claims 49-59, the system corresponds directly to the method of claims 1-13, and thus these claims are rejected using the same rationale.

Regarding claims 60-68, the system corresponds directly to the method of claims 14-16 & 18-23, and thus these claims are rejected using the same rationale.

Regarding claims 69-77, the system corresponds directly to the method of claims 25-27 & 29-34, and thus these claims are rejected using the same rationale.

Regarding claims 78-83, the system corresponds directly to the method of claims 36-41, and thus these claims are rejected using the same rationale.

Regarding claims 84-87, the system corresponds directly to the method of claims 43 & 46-47, and thus these claims are rejected using the same rationale.

Art Unit: 2143

Since all the limitations of the claimed invention were disclosed by the combination of Ennis, Tams, Schaffer, and Hernandez, claims 1-87 are rejected.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 11/14/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

As regard to applicant first argument "the prior do not collect traffic logs for each individual packet and do not disclose that such traffic logs created for individual packets contain information that is used for generating billing data for use of the network". Examiner disagrees, Ennis discloses "the monitoring device identify individual packets in the received data stream for copying and storage in packet Ram. Microprocessor retrieves packets from the packet Ram and processes the packets to generate bandwidth utilization information..." (see Ennis col.7, lines 22-41, col.8, lines 32-62). The monitoring device of Ennis take individual packets and identify the bandwidth utilization in each packet and generate the utilization information, this utilization information is equivalent to the traffic logs for each packet. Hernandez discloses generating billing information base on the network use (see Hernandez Title and abstract). The prior arts Ennis and Tams in combination of Hernandez would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art to come up with the claim invention.

Art Unit: 2143

As regard to second argument "Hernandez does not disclose generating billing data for network use at the second location using information from the stored traffic logs". Examiner disagrees, the system of remote monitoring the usage information and transferring the monitored information to the central server and stored there for different purposes including management, billing etc... The information collected by the collecting agents stored as MIB file and transfer to the central server (collector subsystem 37). This collector subsystem 37 will generate the billing information base on the received information (see Hernandez col.4-col.5). In order for the collector subsystem 37 to generate billing data the received information must store somewhere in the collector subsystem 37. In addition, Hernandez also discloses that the collector subsystem has active memory and drive (see Hernandez Figure 6 and col.8, lines 49-61).

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

Art Unit: 2143

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Art Unit: 2143

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Duyen M. Doan whose telephone number is (571) 272-4226. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30am-6:00pm.

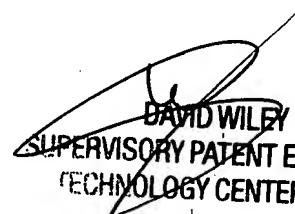
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A. Wiley can be reached on (571) 272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Examiner

Duyen Doan

Art unit 2143


DAVID WILEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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